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New Islands Are Very Unstable

LAND WHICH ROSE FROM THE OCEAN NEAR ALASKA HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED ALREADY—SECOND VISIT TO THE NEW LAND RESULTS IN DISCOVERIES VERY SURPRISING TO THE EXPLORERS.

WASHINGTON, November 22.—The new islands in the Bogoslof group away up in the north Pacific near the Aleutian Islands, Alaska, which the United States acquired several months ago, appear to be very unstable territory.

According to the latest reports received by Captain Worth G. Ross, chief of the revenue cutter service in this city. About a month ago The Star published a summary of a report made by Lieut. B. H. Camden of the cutter McCulloch regarding the birth of the new lands and the explorations of them made by himself and a party of revenue cutter service officials, who were the first and as it has turned out to be the only ones that have ever set foot on the islands.

Since Lieut. Camden and his companions visited the islands in July and August last a remarkable transformation has taken place in the new group. McCulloch peak, the higher of the two mountains that were forced up from the bottom of the sea, has entirely disappeared and many changes have taken place in Perry peak and the remaining new land. Under verbal orders from Captain H. B. Rodgers, commanding the McCulloch, Lieut. Camden visited the Bogoslof group again the 15th of October, and the changes discovered are the subject of a report made by him and which has just reached Captain Ross.

The report shows the remarkable transformations made in the new islands in the two months that elapsed between the first and last visit and it will be of much interest to the scientific world. As the McCulloch rounded Cape Cheerful instructions were given the quartermaster at the wheel to notify Lieut. Camden as soon as the vapor from the hot lands, which on former visits could be seen for miles before the islands were reached, was visible.

Much to the surprise of all aboard the ships, mile after mile was traversed without any vapor being discerned on the horizon, until the island became visible some fifteen miles away.

"Over the land there was no evidence of the cloud that had hitherto been visible for such a great distance, and it was evident that there was but little steam escaping from Perry and McCulloch peaks, from which such dense volumes escaped at the time of the visit of this vessel in August.

"Lieut. Camden was prepared to observe many interesting changes, even to the upheaval of another peak, but the first change that was observed was at such a variance with anything that had been expected that it was startling, to say the least. McCulloch peak, 395 feet high, with a base 1,799 by 2,000 feet, had entirely disappeared leaving the half of Perry peak with its perpendicular wall standing in grim silence as a headstone at the grave of the departed peak. However, a nearer view disclosed the fact that McCulloch peak had not died without a struggle or without leaving some evidence of its short existence, for astonishing changes had occurred in the profiles of the peaks, the rugged outlines of each of which had been softened to a general symmetry by a padding of lava dust that almost disguised them beyond recognition, while the sand spit connecting the peaks had attained a height varying from 20 to 100 feet, as shown by the contour lines in the sketch.

"Incalculable tons of material hundreds of feet in depth had been deposited over the entire island. Fire Island and Perry peak now towered into the air, with a gentle incline rising from the beach, several hundred yards distant, to their summit.

"Castle rock, on account of its precipitous walls, had no considerable depth of the lava dust deposited on it, and consequently its form remains unaltered, but its color is changed to the very tips of its highest rocks from gray to the color of Portland cement. At intervals a mass of this lava dust will be jarred or blown from its bed, high up among the rocks and come tearing down the cliffs to the beach, raising a cloud of dust with it, that is almost identical in appearance with the vapor rising near by, and leaving its starting point bare and white in contrast with the color of the undisturbed dust covering the adjacent rocks.

"As soon as Lieut. Camden realized that this new development was composed of lava dust, which was easily recognizable at the short distance the ship was then from the island, he immediately connected it with fall of lava that occurred at Unalaska September 1, 1907, about the source of which there had been so much contradictory information given and the connection between the incident and the time of lava dust covering the islands

and was obvious. McCulloch peak had blown up certainly not more than a few hours before the fall of lava dust at Unalaska, and this, then, was the much disputed source.

"There had been an unusual eruption of water into the crater beneath it, a tremendous pressure instantly created and a shower of rocks, mud and dust buried high into the air, the latter being carried with the prevailing winds and scattered over the Aleutian Islands to the southward from their beaches to the summits of the loftiest volcanoes.

"Mount Makushin, with an elevation of 5,961 feet, is an active volcano, situated on Unalaska Island at a point about forty miles east of Bogoslof Island.

It is said that there is a subterranean connection between the two volcanoes, but the theory has no reliable foundation, and is hardly tenable as the activity of the one does not produce any noticeable activity on the part of the other. However, as has been previously stated, after the fall of lava dust at Unalaska, there was much discussion as to the origin of it, some of the natives claiming that it had come from a volcano on Unimak Island, in which they were supported by the direction of the wind at the time the fall of the dust occurred. Others, in the vicinity of Unalaska, claimed that Mount Makushin was responsible for the shower. But the natives of Kagaya bay stated that they had seen an immense cloud of dust over Bogoslof Island, which was thrown to a great elevation and carried in various directions by counter currents of the higher altitudes. Consequently the direction from which this cloud of lava dust approached the earth was no evidence as to the direction of its source.

"While Mount Makushin was observed to be covered with lava dust, so were all the surrounding mountains, and to Lieut. Camden it seems there can be but little doubt that the deposit was belched from Bogoslof Island when the explosion of McCulloch peak occurred.

"No attempt was made to land on account of the heavy surf. Had a landing been effected but little could have been accomplished, as the lava dust lay many feet in depth over the island and would have proved but little better than quicksand to traverse.

"From the northern side of the island a small jet of steam escaping from the apex of Perry peak was visible, while over the more elevated portion of the sand spit a thin vapor was discernible, which was correctly surmised as later proved, as arising from a lake or bay occupying the old site of McCulloch peak.

"As the McCulloch steamed around the northwest end of the island the increased width of the island became apparent, and bearings were taken from which its widest points were plotted.

"When opposite Castle rock the ship came upon the lagoon whose existence had been suspected and for which all had been looking. Through the opening a deep bay over half a mile in diameter could be seen extending to the base of Perry peak, from the surface of which steam slowly rose in considerable quantities.

"The northern banks of this inlet were precipitous and estimated to be 100 feet high. At one or two points on the bank there seemed to be unusual activity, and one as the men on the ship razed a dense cloud of smoke arose with a rush as if fired from a cannon, but there was no report.

"A thick deposit of sulphur was noticeable on the beach and its fumes could be detected two miles away.

"Bogoslof Island was the picture of desolation before the disappearance of McCulloch peak, but at the present time the spit adjacent to the site of the vanished peak has the appearance of a battlefield, on which chaos reigns supreme, the huge rocks, the discoloration of the sulphur on the projecting ejecta, half buried in the lava dust, and the escaping steam require but a slight stretch of the imagination to be metamorphosed into the corpses of soldiers lying in the blood shed during the battle from which the smoke has not yet cleared.

"Judging from its chaotic and subdued appearance the land has won but second place in the contest of 1907 between the two elements, but there remain two months of the year, and it is difficult to prophesy what new developments may occur before the expiration of that time, or at what point the struggle may be renewed.

"The previous report of Lieut. Camden attracted much attention from scientists everywhere, and the scientific

journals throughout the world have been making it a subject for many articles on the volcanic birth of lands. The summary given above is the first that has been made for a newspaper, and is the first information given to the world of the startling changes being made by nature in the new lands over which dies the American flag. This last report will be received with interest, and the further developments in the far northwest are awaited with interest, particularly by the scientists of the country.

CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Mr. S. Schneider, of Koffeyfontein, O.R.C., is very grateful to the manufacturers of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. He has found that it cures his children as well as himself of their coughs and colds. They were all coughing and got no relief until this remedy was used. Many parents have made this same discovery. There is nothing better for coughs, colds and croup, and as it contains no injurious substance, there is no danger in giving it to the children. For sale by all dealers, Benson Smith & Co., agents for Hawaii.

NO LET-UP IN LAND PROBE.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7.—The following self-explanatory letter addressed jointly to the attorney general and the secretary of the interior, under date of Nov. 5, was made public at the white house today:

"My attention has been called to the dispatches in reference to the murder of Secret Service Agent Walker while in the performance of his duty investigating certain coal-land frauds in Colorado. I trust every effort will be exerted by your department to prosecute vigorously every violation of the land laws which Walker was investigating.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

DUEL AT BOTTOM OF SEA. TAMPA, Fla., Nov. 20.—Six miles off Tarpon Springs, on the gulf's bottom, 57 feet below the surface, Nicholas Andreas and John Bastonias, Greek sponge divers, fought desperately today with a sponge hook for the possession of a big sponge. Both received severe wounds.

EAGLE RACE WITH BALLOON. WINSTED, Conn., Nov. 20.—A large bald-headed eagle, which measured fully 19 feet from tip to tip, pursued

at close range the "Stevens No. 21" balloon, which carried Leo Stevens and A. Holland Forbes, of New York, from Pittsfield, Mass., across Connecticut to Orange-on-the-Round yesterday.

Mr. Forbes said the bird followed the balloon all the way from the Berkshire.

The aeronauts, at a height of two miles, encountered a temperature of 103 degrees.

ORDER IN SUGAR TRUST SUIT.

NEW YORK, Nov. 20.—Judge Hay in the United States Circuit Court, signed an order today directing the defendant to show cause why the complaint should not be changed to indicate that the Pennsylvania Sugar Refining Company had been doing business from 1883 to 1906 instead of from 1896 to 1906, in connection with the \$30,000,000 damage suit brought by the company against the American Sugar Refining Company.

The case resulted in a mistrial yesterday because of the complainant's request for an opportunity to alter its petition.

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